

Swaim, Craig

Subject: RE: Hwy 99 Funding - Hearing in Sacramento on December 16, 2005

Assemblymembers Dave Cogdill, Juan Arambula and Mike Villines,

I or my fellow council members will not be able to attend this hearing on the Goods Movement Action Plan. I will appreciate your efforts to present these written comments for inclusion into the official record of the hearing.

The City of Madera recognizes that major improvements are needed for SR 99, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, to continue to adequately serve as the primary thoroughfare of agricultural goods movement. Improvements to bring SR 99 up to modern standards are essential for safety and congestion relief on this highway that carries far more truck traffic than the statewide average. It is my understanding that increased cargo shipments at Los Angeles and Long Beach will only add to the truck traffic on SR 99 through the San Joaquin Valley making it even more necessary to fund immediate infrastructure improvements that are already long overdue.

Our Regional Transportation Planning Agency staff tells me that it is critical that \$6 Billion dollars are needed over the next 10 years for improvement and expansion of SR 99 in the San Joaquin Valley. It is apparent that without these improvements the efficient transportation of goods will be adversely affected.

Therefore, the Goods Movement Action Plan must recognize that SR 99 is an essential element for the transportation of goods and must receive the appropriate level of funding to serve the truck traffic through the San Joaquin Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera

12/15/2005